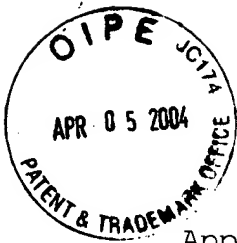


Single

1631



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/983,020
Applicant : Steven W. HOMANS et al.
Filed : October 22, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1631
Examiner : Michael L. Borin

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Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 7728

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated
January 6, 2004, Applicants submit the following amendment and
response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.